

JULY 6, 2000

**SCHAKOWSKY, MEMBERS OF ILLINOIS DELEGATION EXTEND INVITATION TO INDIAN PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT CHICAGO**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Members of the Illinois Congressional delegation extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee to visit Chicago during his scheduled trip to the United States in September. The letter was initiated by U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and signed by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and seventeen other Illinois House members.

In the letter, the members wrote, "As you are aware, the Chicago Metropolitan area boasts one of our country's most diverse populations, including a thriving Indian-American community of 100,000 and growing every year."

"As members of Congress who value the relationship between our two nations and recognize the significance of your visit, we believe this is an opportunity to strengthen relations between India and our state even further. Your visit to our city would give Chicago's Indian American community a chance to showcase its contributions to American society," they added.

Schakowsky, whose district includes a large population of Indian - Americans, was one of only eight members of Congress to have joined President Clinton on his historic trip to India earlier this year.

Below is a copy of the letter.

June 30, 2000

The Honorable A.B. Vajpayee  
Prime Minister of India  
Prime Minister's Office  
New Delhi, India

Dear Prime Minister Vajpayee:

On behalf of Chicago's Indian American community and the people of Illinois, we are writing to invite you to visit our city as part of your upcoming trip to the United States.

As you are aware, the Chicago Metropolitan area boasts one of our country's most diverse populations, including a thriving Indian-American community of 100,000 and

growing every year. The Indian American community contributes greatly to Chicago's cultural diversity, economic growth, and business development, in addition to fostering good will and understanding between our people.

As members of Congress who value the relationship between our two nations and recognize the significance of your visit, we believe this is an opportunity to strengthen relations between India and our state even further. Your visit to our city would give Chicago's Indian American community a chance to showcase its contributions to American society.

While we understand that your scheduled visit to the United States is being finalized and that there is a great demand for your time, we sincerely hope that you will consider our invitation to visit the city of Chicago.

Sincerely,

U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. Senator Dick Durbin  
U.S. Representative Bobby Rush  
U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
U.S. Representative William Lipinski  
U.S. Representative Luis Guterrez  
U.S. Representative Rod Blagojevich  
U.S. Representative Henry Hyde  
U.S. Representative Danny Davis  
U.S. Representative John Porter  
U.S. Representative Jerry Weller  
U.S. Representative Jerry Costello  
U.S. Representative Judy Biggert  
U.S. Representative Thomas Ewing  
U.S. Representative Donald Manzullo  
U.S. Representative Lane Evans  
U.S. Representative Ray LaHood  
U.S. Representative David Phelps  
U.S. Representative John Shimkus